

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

State of Vermont

Profile of Drug Indicators

January 2008



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

Vermont

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, crime, drug use, drug trafficking and enforcement statistics.

Demographics

- Population (2006 American Community Survey): 623,908 ¹
- Race/Ethnicity (2006 American Community Survey): 96.3% white, 0.8% black/African American, 0.4% American Indian/Alaska Native, 0.9% Asian, 0.0% Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander, 0.3% other, 1.3% two or more races, 1.1 % Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)²

Politics

- Governor: Jim Douglas³
- Lieutenant Governor: Brian E. Dubie⁴
- Attorney General: William H. Sorrell⁵
- Secretary of State: Deborah Markowitz⁶
- U.S. Senate: Bernard Sanders (I), Patrick Leahy (D)⁷
- U.S. House of Representatives: Peter Welch (I)⁸
- Capital: Montpelier⁹

Programs/Initiatives

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)¹⁰
Designated in 1999, the New England HIDTA is responsible for areas of Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Chittenden County, Vermont.
- The Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP)¹¹
Established in 1996 within the Vermont Department of Health, this program helps Vermont citizens prevent, reduce and/or eliminate alcohol- and other drug-related problems. In partnership with other public and private organizations, ADAP plans, funds, manages, and evaluates a comprehensive, consistent, and effective system of substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

Crime and Drug-Related Crime

- The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported 36 drug violation arrests in Vermont during 2006.¹²

Number of DEA Drug Arrests, Vermont, 2002-2006

Year	Drug Arrests
2002	51
2003	34
2004	46
2005	56
2006	36

- There were 13 homicides known to law enforcement in Vermont during 2006.¹³

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Vermont, 2006

Offense	Number of Offenses
Homicide	13
Forcible rape	175
Robbery	112
Aggravated assault	500
Burglary	3,281
Larceny	10,540
Motor vehicle theft	591
Arson	108

- There were 2,765 drug/narcotic violations and 325 drug equipment violations reported by law enforcement in Vermont during 2006. Of the 2,637 total drug violations where a drug type was reported, marijuana was involved in 1,758 offenses.¹⁴

Drugs Involved in Drug Offenses, by Drug Type, Vermont, 2006

Drug Type	Number of Offenses
Marijuana	1,758
Cocaine	290
Other narcotics	180
Crack cocaine	102
Other drugs	64
Heroin	57
Depressants	55
Stimulants	49
Hallucinogens	44
Morphine	20
Hashish	9
Opium	6
Over 3 drug types	3
Total	2,637

Drugs

- Cocaine¹⁵
While powder cocaine is readily available throughout Vermont and is widely abused, there is limited availability of crack in the metropolitan areas of Burlington, Barre and Rutland.
- Heroin¹⁶
Heroin is available in Vermont in street/user level quantities and high-purity level heroin is available throughout the state. A typical heroin distributor in Vermont is a heroin user who distributes the drug in order to support his/her heroin addiction.

- **Marijuana**¹⁷
Marijuana is the most widely available and commonly abused drug in Vermont. It is typically transported to Vermont from the Southwestern U.S. or across the Canadian border.
- **Methamphetamine**¹⁸
Law enforcement officials in Vermont report minimal availability of methamphetamine in the state.
- **Club Drugs**¹⁹
MDMA is sporadically available in Vermont. There have not been any reports of widespread availability of other club drugs such as GHB and ketamine.
- **Diverted Pharmaceuticals**²⁰
Vicodin, Fentanyl, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Methadone, Ritalin, Xanax, OxyContin and Diazepam are the most commonly diverted pharmaceutical drugs in Vermont. Impaired practitioners are a concern in the state.
- According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately 57,000 (11%) of Vermont citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug.²¹

Citizens (Ages 12 or Older) Reporting Drug Use, Vermont, 2004-2005 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	57	10.66%
Past year marijuana use	77	14.43
Past month marijuana use	49	9.04
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	21	3.87
Past year cocaine use	15	2.86
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	26	4.85

* The number of users is in thousands

- Approximately 149,000 (27.85%) Vermont citizens reported that using marijuana occasionally (once a month) was a “great risk”.²²
- Additional 2004-2005 NSDUH results indicate that 16,000 (3.07%) Vermont citizens reported illicit drug dependence or abuse within the past year. Approximately 12,000 (2.23%) reported past year illicit drug dependence.²³

Juveniles

- Among Vermont 12th graders surveyed during 2007, 22% reported illegal use of prescription drugs at least once in their lifetimes.²⁴

Percent of Students Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, Vermont, 2007

Drug Use Behavior	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	14%	23%	36%	44%	55%
Marijuana use within last 30 days	8	14	22	27	34
Used marijuana before age 13	7	8	10	9	8
Used marijuana on school property	2	4	6	7	8
Lifetime inhalant use	10	12	12	12	12
Cocaine use within last 30 days	2	3	5	5	8

Lifetime illegal use of steroids	2	2	2	3	3
Lifetime heroin use	2	2	3	2	4
Lifetime methamphetamine use	3	3	5	4	6
Lifetime hallucinogens use	3	6	11	13	16
Lifetime prescription use w/o presc.	9	10	17	20	22
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1	1	3	2	3

- Fifty-one percent of 12th graders thought that it was wrong or very wrong for kids their age to smoke marijuana.²⁵
- Forty percent of 12th graders thought there was a great risk in harming themselves from using marijuana regularly.²⁶

Disapproval/Perceived Harmfulness of Drugs Felt by Students, Vermont, 2007

Disapproval/Perceived Harmfulness	8	9	10	11	12
Wrong/very wrong to use marijuana	87%	75%	65%	61%	51%
Wrong/very wrong to smoke cigarettes	88	82	77	72	60
Wrong/very wrong to drink alcohol	73	60	46	40	32
Great risk from using marijuana regularly	68	56	47	44	40
Great risk from smoking 1+ packs of cigar./day	69	69	73	74	76
Great risk from drinking 1-2 drinks every day	32	27	26	23	24

- Sixty-nine percent of Vermont 12th graders surveyed during 2007 reported that it is easy or very easy to get marijuana.²⁷

Perceived Availability of Substances by Students, Vermont, 2007

Perceived Availability	8	9	10	11	12
Easy/very easy to get marijuana	24%	43%	60%	69%	69%
Easy/very easy to get cigarettes	39	55	68	77	90
Easy/very easy to get alcohol	51	62	68	79	81

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 13% of Vermont 12-17 year olds reported past month use of an illicit drug.²⁸

Youth (12-17 Year Olds) Reporting Drug Use, Vermont, 2004-2005 Data

Drug Type and Use	Number*	Percent
Past month illicit drug use	7	13.37%
Past year marijuana use	9	17.24
Past month marijuana use	6	10.54
Past month use of illicit drug other than marijuana	3	5.70
Past year cocaine use	1	2.01
Past year non-medical pain reliever use	4	7.31

* The number of users is in thousands

Enforcement

- Drug Investigation Unit²⁹
The Vermont State Police Drug Investigation Unit/Drug Task Force is charged with investigating drug trafficking throughout the state. Most officers assigned to this unit work with either the Northern or Southern Task Force and concentrate their efforts on mid- to upper-level drug dealers.
- As of October 31, 2006, there were 1,567 full-time law enforcement employees in Vermont (1,163 officers and 404 civilians).³⁰

Trafficking and Seizures

- Vermont’s two interstate highways, I-89 and I-91, terminate at the U.S./Canada border, providing drug traffickers easy access to metropolitan areas in Canada and the United States.³¹
- Marijuana is often brought into Vermont from the Southwestern U.S. using automobiles, campers and tractor-trailers. Additionally, drug trafficking organizations based in Canada smuggle high quality hydroponically grown marijuana from Canada across the U.S./Canada border for distribution in Vermont and in transit to Massachusetts, New York and other states.³²
- Federal agencies in Vermont seized 0.1 kilograms and 26,240 dosage units of MDMA during 2006.³³

Federal Drug Seizures, Vermont, 2006

Drug	Amount Seized
Cocaine	1.4 kilograms
Marijuana	169.4 kilograms
Methamphetamine	6 dosage units
Heroin	0.0 kilograms
MDMA	0.1 kgs./ 26,240 dosage units

- More than 1,700 cultivated marijuana plants were eradicated in Vermont under the DEA’s Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program in 2006.³⁴

Number of Marijuana Plants Eradicated and Seized, Vermont, 2006

<u>Outdoor Operations</u>		<u>Indoor Operations</u>		Total Cultivated Plants Eradicated
Plots Eradicated	Cultivated Plants Eradicated	Grows Seized	Plants Eradicated	
83	1,241	14	469	1,710

- According to the DEA, 5 clandestine methamphetamine laboratory incidents were reported in Vermont during 2006.³⁵

Courts

- Drug Courts³⁶
As of April 16, 2007, there were 3 drug courts in Vermont that had been operating for at least two years. One drug court had recently implemented and 3 were being planned at that time.
- During FY 2006, 50.5% of Federally-sentenced defendants in Vermont were drug offenders. Approximately 41.2% of these drug offenses involved marijuana.³⁷

Federal Sentencing Statistics, Drug Offenses, Vermont, FY 2006

Drug Type	# of Offenses	% of Total
Powder cocaine	19	18.6%
Crack cocaine	20	19.6
Heroin	10	9.8
Marijuana	42	41.2
Methamphetamine	7	6.9
Other	4	3.9

Corrections

- On June 30, 2007, there were 2,165 inmates in Vermont.³⁸
- As of June 30, 2007, there were 7,326 adults on probation and 964 adults on parole in Vermont.³⁹
- There were 162 inmates incarcerated in Vermont on June 30, 2007 whose most serious offense was a felony drug offense.⁴⁰

Individuals under Vermont DOC supervision, by Most Serious Offense, June 30, 2007

Offense	Incarcerated	Probation	Parole
Felony serious	782	522	167
Felony person	212	278	34
Felony property	470	1,199	239
Felony drug	162	298	94
Felony motor vehicle	167	209	283
Felony other	82	144	20
Misdemeanor person	123	1,220	30
Misdemeanor property	45	744	5
Misdemeanor drug	28	363	10
Misdemeanor motor vehicle	51	1,688	53
Misdemeanor other	24	565	8
Uncharacterized	11	15	2
Blank/none entered	8	81	19
Total	2,165	7,326	964

Treatment

- During 2005, there were 8,358 admissions to drug/alcohol treatment in Vermont.⁴¹
There were 5,671 such treatment admissions during 2004.⁴²

Admissions to Treatment, Vermont, 2004-2005

Drug Type	2004		2005	
	#	%	#	%
Alcohol only	1,864	32.9%	2,561	30.6%
Alcohol with secondary drug	1,370	24.2	1,937	23.2
Cocaine (smoked)	170	3.0	317	3.8
Cocaine (other route)	199	3.5	307	3.7
Marijuana	930	16.4	1,237	14.8
Heroin	534	9.4	797	9.5
Other opiates	533	9.4	1,075	12.9
PCP	1	0.0	4	0.0
Hallucinogens	4	0.1	3	0.0
Amphetamines	19	0.3	37	0.4
Other stimulants	2	0.0	5	0.1
Tranquilizers	16	0.3	30	0.4
Sedatives	8	0.1	11	0.1
Inhalants	3	0.1	2	0.0
Other unknown	18	0.3	35	0.4
Total	5,671	100.0	8,358	100.0

- According to 2004-2005 NSDUH data, approximately 15,000 (2.72%) Vermont citizens reported needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drug use within the past year.⁴³

Sources

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² Ibid.

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⁴ Vermont Lieutenant Governor Web site: <http://www.ltgov.state.vt.us/>

⁵ Vermont Attorney General Web site: <http://www.atg.state.vt.us/>

⁶ Vermont Secretary of State Web site: <http://www.sec.state.vt.us/>

⁷ U.S. Senate Web site: <http://www.senate.gov>

⁸ U.S. House of Representatives Web site: <http://clerk.house.gov/>

⁹ Vermont Web site: <http://www.vermont.gov/>

¹⁰ Office of National Drug Control Policy, New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Web site: <http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/newengland.html>

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